



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings June 12, 2017 Vol. 4, No. 19

Welcome to the ECI **Monday Musings**. It is a compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and/or success stories. **Monday Musings** is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders in a timely fashion. (We may on occasion send out a separate email with information if it needs immediate attention or if for a specific audience.)

Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov

Back Issues of Monday Musing are available [here](#).

“Leaders are indispensable, but to produce a major social change many ordinary people must be involved.”

-Anne Firor Scott

State Information

IA Department of Public Health Seeks Input for Maternal and Child Health Priorities

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the University of Iowa Division of Child and Community Health (UI-DCCCH) are collecting input on the proposed program activities for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant application for FFY18. **The priorities and proposed program activities are available on the IDPH website through June 23rd for public input.**

The website address is: <https://idph.iowa.gov/family-health>.

The survey is asking for feedback on two documents:

- National Performance Measure (NPM) Plans
- State Performance Measure (SPM) Plans

After reviewing the documents listed above, please provide your feedback on the online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018publicinput>

Please complete the survey by June 23rd!

Even if you do not have any comments regarding the proposed activities, please take a moment to complete the survey stating that you had no comments. This is a way we can track and evaluate the effectiveness of web-based distribution.

Federal Information:

Technology Privacy and Security Considerations

The federal Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently released a [brief](#) that discusses privacy and security considerations related to the use of technology in early childhood settings. The brief is entitled *The Use of Technology to Support Early Childhood Practice: Protecting Child, Parent, and Practitioner Privacy*. It provides best practices to guide early childhood programs in strengthening the safeguards to protect child, parent, and practitioner information as programs increasingly incorporate technology to improve practice. It draws on guidance developed by ED's [Privacy Technical Assistance Center](#).

Message from U.S. Department of Education Acting Assistant Secretaries Monique M. Chism, Ph.D. and Ruth Ryder

This month we are delighted to discuss the importance of not only increasing opportunities for early learning, but also of expanding quality in early learning programs and services. In this edition of the *Early Learning* newsletter, we have highlighted resources that focus on high-quality early learning.

We also are pleased to spotlight a recent interview with the secretary of Alabama's Department of Early Childhood Education, Jeana Ross, who has led her state in expanding its voluntary pre-K program to all of Alabama's counties, as well as increasing funding to home visiting and family support services. Ross expounds on strategies used in Alabama for maintaining high quality in early learning programs while expanding opportunities.

In addition to our focus on high-quality early learning, this month's newsletter touches on the importance of **building the birth-to-third-grade continuum** and supporting local efforts to do so. The Department's [early learning work](#) has long emphasized the need to align education across the pre-K and school-age "divide."

Other Information:



Child Care Grant and Proposal Writing (New workshop in July)

A First Children's Finance Child Care Business Management Workshop

Child care center directors, owners, and board members! Join us for a hands-on day with First Children's Finance, learning new ways to reach out and touch your partners, stakeholders and funders through excellent grant applications and funding proposals.

This 6-hour workshop is designed for all levels, from beginners to those who would like to take a fresh look. Come with ideas of what your child care program needs and let *First Children's Finance's* experienced staff assist you in developing your ideas and proposal. Plan to leave this seminar equipped with ideas, tools and a great start to succeed in your next funding opportunity.

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About this Training

Credit Hours

Provides 6 hours of Iowa DHS training credit and NAC renewal hours.

Target Audience

Directors, owners or board members of child care centers or preschools.

Training Level

Level 1 (Beginner), Level 2 (Skilled) and Level 3 (Mastery)

Content Area

5- Strategies to manage an effective program operation.

Registration

\$45 per person (lunch included). You will receive an email confirmation within one week of registering that will include payment information.

Additional funding support is provided by Northwest Area Foundation and Iowa Department of Human Services.

Dates and Locations

Sioux City- June 16, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Council Bluffs- June 17, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cedar Falls – July 19, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION/REGISTER

Or Contact:

Angie Rae Duncan, Senior Business Development Specialist

Angie@FirstChildrensFinance.org or (515) 229-5064

Jillian Herink Named Iowa AEYC New Executive Director

Jillian Herink will assume her new position as *Iowa AEYC* Executive Director in June as current Executive Director Barbara Merrill transitions into retirement by the end of the month. Jillian has experience in classroom teaching (math) and educational leadership in 3-year old preschool through 12th grade as principal and superintendent. She has taught for the Marshalltown Community School District and the Meskwaki Settlement School as well as had led the Meskwaki Settlement School as a principal and superintendent.

Jillian comes to us with a wide array of knowledge and skill sets that will aid the Association through the restructuring and re-affiliation with the NAEYC. She is well versed in systems building and working alongside Boards of Directors. She is thorough in her thinking, analysis, and application of information and skills, which will be highly valued in the Association's completion and ongoing assessment of its Strategic Plan 2020.

The *Iowa AEYC* Affiliate is excited to welcome Jillian Herink to the role of Executive Director. Please reach out and introduce yourself and your role at jherink@iowaaeyc.org.

Introduction to Early Childhood Mental Health and Reflective Practice - FREE TRAINING!

The IA Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health is offering a free training opportunity titled "Introduction to Early Childhood Mental Health and Reflective Practice". This training will be held on Thursday, June 29th, from 9:00 - 4:00 and will be provided FREE to any professional interested in learning more about infant mental health and reflective functioning. Please note that this is an introductory course; an advanced training will be held this Fall.

Trainers for this event will be Jill Hennes and Teya Dahle, infant mental health experts from Minnesota. Both trainers are Infant Mental Health Endorsed at Level IV - Clinical. The training will be held at the Fred Maytag Scout Center in Des Moines.

Registration Procedure: We are piloting the use of Iowa's Child Care Training Registry to manage enrollment in this course. All early childhood professionals are welcome to participate and will use the Training Registry to enroll. Instructions for registering can be found on page 2 of the attached flyer. Seating capacity is 25 and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. The flyer can also be found [here](#).

State of Preschool 2016--Change is in the Air (NIEER)

NIEER has released [The State of Preschool 2016](#), showing state-funded preschool program enrollment reached an all-time high, serving nearly 1.5 million children; state funding for preschool rose 8 percent to about \$7.4 billion, and state funding per child exceeded pre-recession levels for the first time. But our evaluation also reveals how much more states must do to provide high quality preschool.

The Yearbook tells a story of growing inequality in access to high-quality preschool as some states invested in providing high-quality preschool for all children and others did little, or nothing. In 18 states, we found federal Preschool Development Grants (PDGs) were used to expand enrollment and enhance programs. PDGs funded nearly half the increase in enrollment of 4-year-olds.

The PDG program was designed to accomplish this goal, but the new administration's budget would eliminate the \$249 million program. Rather than cutting PDG, we argue for doubling funding for some form of competitive grants to states would allow the federal government to incentivize high quality pre-K in the majority of states, while still the size of a dust mote in the federal budget.

In addition, NIEER's report recommends the federal government support a national pre-K quality audit of public and private preschool programs. Parents and taxpayers deserve to know to the extent to which pre-K programs in their state provide a good early education and how this varies by auspice. The last nationwide study of pre-K quality in 2005 found that most classrooms, private and public, were not good. Yet, high quality is needed in order to provide young children the strong start in school and life that can make a lasting difference.

For the first time, NIEER this year introduced major revisions to the [quality standards benchmarks](#) focusing on policies that more directly support continuous improvement of classroom quality. These new benchmarks are providing the GPS to guide policymakers toward sound investments in our children's futures.

The State of Preschool Yearbook provides a guide for states and valuable information for parents and policymakers. But only an impartial assessment of children's experiences in the classroom can tell whether we are headed in the right direction.

Iowa Early Care & Education 2017 Institute - registration now open

Iowa AEYC is pleased to announce registration is now open for the Iowa Early Care & Education Fall Institute, **Power to the Profession**. Discounted registration rates are available for members and for those who register before the end of August. You may go to our

website, <http://www.iowaaeyc.org/iowa-aeyc-institutes.cfm>

For registration information, updates on special events, and more information over the next three months. We appreciate you sharing this information with your employees, colleagues, members, and others who might be interested.

As you may have year-end funds available and needing to be spent in June, an AEYC membership is one way you can help teachers and providers in your area attend this Institute at a reduced price.

The Sooner You Expose a Baby to a Second Language, The Smarter They'll Be

A new study shows that babies raised in bilingual environments develop core cognitive skills like decision-making and problem-solving -- before they even speak. Read more at

http://bigthink.com/laurie-vazquez/the-sooner-you-expose-a-baby-to-a-second-language-the-smarter-theyllbe?utm_campaign=Echobox&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#link_time=1488488006

Daily Touchscreen Use in Infants and Toddlers is Associated with Reduced Sleep and Delayed Sleep Onset

Recently published research based on a survey of families in the United Kingdom showed that 75% of toddlers ages 6 months to 3-years use a touchscreen daily. Results showed every additional hour of touchscreen use was associated with an overall reduction in sleep of 15.6 minutes. Read more at

<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep46104>

For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit our website:

<http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/>

To join the ECI Stakeholders, please complete the commitment survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSXR5F2>

2017 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

September 8

November 3

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

September 12 (AM)

December 12 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

(June will be regional meetings)

September 12 (afternoon)

December 6 All day

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

August 3 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)